

“Our nation is facing a severe economic crisis,” Congresswoman Kaptur said. “We face the highest unemployment rates in a generation and an uncertain road forward. This legislation strengthens the safety net for millions of seniors and unemployed Americans. It also makes important investments in our future. Although I wish it would have focused more on job creation in the short term, I am also encouraged by the commitment to green energy, infrastructure projects, and high-speed rail.”

Congresswoman Kaptur noted that the bill will provide tax relief for 95 percent of the American people, authorize checks for \$250 for most senior citizens and retirees, increase jobless benefits by \$25 a week, subsidize COBRA continuing health care benefits for unemployed workers, and expand the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Kaptur noted that the bill makes the most substantial commitment to high-speed rail in the nation’s history, noting that she had raised the issue with President Obama last week. She said she is optimistic that the \$8 billion investment in high-speed rail will stimulate development of the important Chicago-Toledo-Sandusky-Cleveland rail corridor, which she succeeded in earlier legislation as designating one of 13 major corridors in the U.S.

“High-speed rail is a good investment in America’s future—especially here in the Great Lakes coastal region,” she said. “Moving forward on this initiative will create good jobs and build the modern infrastructure that will make our region more competitive in future.” Kaptur is a member of the Transportation-Housing subcommittee of House Appropriations.

“We have been pushing for real job creation across our region, based on future-oriented investment. This latest addition will bring real value-added investment throughout our job-starved region and will place Ohio on a new, 21st Century path,” she said.

Read the stimulus here: <http://appropriations.house.gov/>

[- Bill Text - Division A](#)

[- Bill Text - Division B](#)

[- Bill Text - Signatures of Managers](#)

[□ - Joint Statement - Division A](#)

[- Joint Statement - Division B](#)

Stimulus summary: <http://appropriations.house.gov/pdf/PressSummary02-12-09.pdf>